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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,390	08/18/2003	George Andrew Beard	51,328	3650

7590 01/26/2005
Michael T. Cash
7950 Sandestin Lane
Stanley, NC 28164

EXAMINER

STERLING, AMY JO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/643,390

Applicant(s)

BEARD, GEORGE ANDREW

Examiner

Amy J. Sterling

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/8/04.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/8/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the **Final Office Action** for application number 10/643,390 Highly Absorbent Durable Coaster, filed on 8/18/03. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 are pending. This **Final Office Action** is in response to applicant's reply dated 11/8/04. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0034430 to Hailey et al and in view of United States Patent No. 6774067 to Demott et al.

The patent to Hailey et al. discloses the basic inventive concept including teaching a coaster having a main body (4) with a top and a bottom surface and an outer edge, a an absorbent layer (See page 1, paragraph 0022 for Coform selection) with a top surface and bottom surface and a plastic film adhesive layer (See page 1, paragraph 0022, for plastic film description) with a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein the bottom layer of the absorbent layer is affixed to the top surface of the adhesive layer and the bottom of the adhesive layer is affixed to the top of the main body with an adhesive which is stronger on the top than the bottom so that the

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absorbent layer may be removed from the main body (See page 1, paragraph 0022 for removable pad explanation) Hailey et al. also discloses a seating ring (6) attached to the top surface of the main body and a support ring (8) attached to the bottom surface of the main body wherein the point of attachment is very near the edge of the main body.

Hailey does not disclose that specifically that a synthetic felt is used.

Demott et al. discloses a material which may be used in conjunction with a coaster (See Col. 12, line 54, item #7), which is made from synthetic (See Col. 10 line 42 for polyester, a synthetic material) felt (See Col. 11, lines 60, for felt selection). The material used for its textiles properties. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made the absorbent layer of synthetic felt.

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0034430 to Hailey et al and in view of United States Patent No. 6774067 to Demott et al. as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2003/012250 to Dauer.

Hailey et al. and Demott et al. discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, all the elements which are shown above with the exception that it does not show an slightly raised embroidery pattern of thread in woven into the absorbent layer.

Dauer shows an coaster (10) with an absorbent layer (12) which has a slightly raised threaded embroidery (14) (the thread would have to be slightly raised above the layer in order to be able to view it from a top view as shown in Fig. 1) woven into the

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absorbent layer for aesthetics and for holding layers together. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Dauer to have added this slightly raised and threaded embroidery for aesthetic reasons or for holding the layers more firmly together.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1,2,5 and 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 703-308-

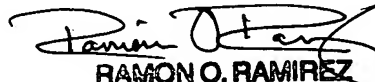
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3271. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached at

703-308-2156. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 703-872-9306 (formal amendments) or 703-308-3519 (informal amendments/ communications). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 703-308-2168.



AJS
Amy J. Sterling
1/9/05



RAMON O. RAMIREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER